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Temporal Trends in Identification, Management and Clinical Outcomes Following Out-of-Hospital Cardiac Arrest: Insights from the Myocardial Ischaemia National Audit Project Database

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Background

There is wide variation in survival rates from out-of-hospital cardiac arrest (OHCA) and overall survival remains poor. There is expert consensus that early reperfusion therapy in ST-elevation (STE) reduces mortality. The management of patients without STE however is controversial.

Methods

The MINAP database is a national registry of all hospital admissions in England and Wales treated as acute coronary syndrome (ACS). We examined temporal trends, over a 5-year period, of OHCA identified by the Myocardial Ischaemia National Audit Project (MINAP) registry, admitted to hospital and treated as ACS, the interventional management of these patients and clinical outcomes.

Results

410,462 patients were admitted to hospital in England and Wales with ACS. Of these, 9,421 presented with OHCA (2.30%). There was an increase in OHCA cases as a proportion of ACS between 2009 and 2013 (2.74% in 2013 versus 1.79% in 2009; $P_{\text{trend}} < 0.001$). The rate of coronary angiography + percutaneous coronary intervention (CA+PCI) increased in ACS patients presenting with OHCA (66.3% in 2013 (884/1,334) versus 54.9% in 2009 (876/1,595); $P_{\text{trend}} < 0.001$). Time-varying cox-proportional hazards model demonstrated CA±PCI (in patients with and without STE) was associated with reduced mortality before (HR=0.35, 95% CI: 0.20 to 0.60; $P < 0.05$) and after (HR=0.36, 95% CI: 0.25 to 0.50; $P < 0.001$) 30 days. Predictors of favourable outcome were synonymous with the selection criteria for patients undergoing CA±PCI.

Conclusions

This observational study showed that selection for CA±PCI was associated with reduced mortality in OHCA patients diagnosed with ACS. These data support the need for a randomized controlled trial.

Background

Out-of-hospital cardiac arrest (OHCA) is a global public health issue. Each year there are approximately 28,000 emergency medical services (EMS)–treated OHCA in England and approximately 330,000 EMS-attended OHCA in the United States.^{1,2} There is wide variation in survival rates from OHCA and overall survival remains poor, with a reported average of 7%.¹ The adoption of systematic approaches to cardiopulmonary resuscitation may improve long term survival from OHCA.^{3,4} Post-resuscitation care in-hospital including targeted temperature management and treatment of the underlying cause through coronary reperfusion is thought to further improve this survival in patients with acute coronary syndromes (ACS).⁵ It is difficult to conclude which of the components of post-arrest care is essential, given the observational nature of studies. Coronary artery disease is responsible for > 70% of OHCA of presumed cardiac cause, with an acute occlusion demonstrated in 50% of consecutive patients taken immediately to coronary angiography.⁶ There is expert consensus that early reperfusion therapy in ST-elevation (STE) reduces mortality.^{7,8} The management of patients without STE however is controversial, with an emphasis placed on prior rule out of non-coronary causes.⁸ Randomized data are lacking and the benefit of early reperfusion therapy remains debated. This has led to a variable uptake of such a strategy amongst the interventional cardiology community. The Myocardial Ischaemia National Audit Project (MINAP) database is a non-commercially funded national registry of all hospital admissions treated as ACS in England and Wales, established to examine the quality of management of hospitals providing acute cardiac care.⁹ The strengths of this registry include its size and national reach. This database selectively captures OHCA that are admitted to hospital with a final diagnosis of ACS and does not encompass all OHCA admissions to hospital. Therefore the aim of this study was to examine the temporal trends, over a 5-year period, of OHCA identified by the MINAP registry, admitted to hospital and treated as ACS, the interventional management of these patients and clinical outcomes.

Methods

The MINAP registry consists of 123 core data-points, including cardiovascular risk factors, occurrence of cardiac arrest, post-resuscitation therapies including coronary angiography and PCI, and outcomes

including in-hospital mortality and neurological outcome; these data-points have been published previously.¹⁰ Of the 123 separate fields, 49 data sets were extracted and examined (Section 1, Supplementary Material). These clinical audit data are a valuable resource and missing values are inevitable when large volumes of data are collected and have the potential to bias or reduce the efficiency of statistical estimators if they are not treated appropriately. Thus we performed multiple imputations to deal with these missing data. Patients are identified at individual hospital level and data entry, performed by trained personnel, undergoes annual validation through re-audit. MINAP has approval from the Patient Information Advisory Group to use patient identifiable information without individual patient consent. MINAP approved this current registry-based project and data analyses were performed at King's College London, St Thomas' Hospital, UK with the support of London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine Clinical Trials Unit, UK.

Study Population and Outcomes Reported

For the purposes of this study, fully anonymized data were retrospectively extracted from the MINAP dataset of hospitals in England and Wales accepting admissions between January 2009 and July 2013. ACS was categorized as ST-Elevation myocardial infarction (STEMI) or Non-STEMI based on biomarker and electrocardiographic criteria. OHCA was defined as cardiac arrest before arrival at hospital. Procedural intervention was classed as no coronary angiogram, coronary angiogram alone and coronary angiogram + PCI. In-hospital mortality is defined as patient death in-hospital. Life status is tracked by MINAP through linkage with the Office of National Statistics using the unique National Health Service identifier (number), thus represents in-hospital mortality and subsequent mortality following discharge.

Statistical Analysis

Categorical data were presented as counts and percentages, and comparison between groups performed using chi-square test; numerical data were presented as mean \pm SD, and analysis performed using one-way ANOVA. The temporal trends in identification of OHCA, followed by distribution of baseline characteristics (male gender, presence of STE, previous MI, previous angina, hypertension, hypercholesterolemia, peripheral vascular disease, cerebrovascular disease, chronic renal failure, heart

failure, smoking history, diabetes, previous PCI, previous coronary artery bypass graft surgery (CABG), family history, presenting rhythm of pulseless ventricular tachycardia/ventricular fibrillation (VT/VF) and age>75), the rate of procedural intervention, in-hospital mortality and good neurological outcome (defined as cerebral performance category 1 or 2 at discharge) of the ACS cohort presenting with OHCA were examined. For trend analysis year-on-year we used the Cochran-Armitage test for trend to test for linear relationships between categorical variables. To determine independent predictors for in-hospital mortality and the odds of undergoing procedural intervention (CA±PCI), multivariable adjusted logistic regression models were used to generate odds ratios. To limit the number of variables for the final multivariable models, stepwise regression was performed using the above covariates (entry criteria $P<0.05$, exit criteria $P>0.1$); significant variables were used in the final model. Final model selection was performed using multiple imputation (Fully Conditional Specification, SPSS v24.0 (IBM Corp.©)) to impute missing data on baseline covariates by chained equations to create 5 multiply imputed datasets to maximise statistical power (missing values and multiple imputation methodology is reported in Section 2, Supplementary material). The variables used in the final model of the odds of undergoing CA±PCI were: gender, STE, previous MI, previous angina, hypertension, hypercholesterolemia, peripheral vascular disease, cerebrovascular disease, chronic renal failure, heart failure, smoking history, diabetes, previous PCI, previous CABG, family history, VT/VF and age>75. The variables used in the final model for in-hospital mortality were as for the previous model with the addition of CA±PCI. No significant co-linearity was demonstrated. Due to the large proportion of missing data, complete case analysis was performed in parallel, these results were compared with those of multiply imputed data to increase the robustness of our conclusions (Section 3, Supplementary material). Time to event analysis was performed using Kaplan-Meier curves, Cox proportional hazard analyses model was performed to generate (i) time-varying hazard ratio for <30 days and >30 days and (ii) time-varying exposure to coronary angiography (to account for survival bias) using time-varying covariate of transition time to coronary angiogram. All p values were two-sided with a significance threshold $P<0.05$. Statistical analysis was performed using SPSS v24.0 (IBM Corp.©).

Results

Trends in Incidence of ACS Presenting as OHCA

Figure 1 details case identification. From January 2009 to July 2013 we identified 410,462 patients admitted to hospital in England and Wales with a final discharge diagnosis of troponin positive ACS. Over the 5-year period, 385,509 did not experience cardiac arrest and 24,953 experienced cardiac arrest. Of the 24,953 cardiac arrest patients, 9,421 of these patients were identified as out-of-hospital cardiac arrest (OHCA). The overall proportion of ACS patients presenting with OHCA (9,421) relative to the overall cohort of patients diagnosed with ACS (410,462) was 2.3%. This proportion increased yearly from 2009 to 2013 (1.8% (1,595/89,380) in 2009, 2.0% (1,835/91,087) in 2010, 2.4% (2,142/90,559) in 2011, 2.8% (2,515/90,705) in 2012 to 2.7% (1,334/48,731) in 2013; $P_{\text{trend}} < 0.001$), Section 4, Supplementary material.

Baseline Characteristics of Identified Cases of OHCA

Table 1 depicts the changes in baseline demographics from 2009 to 2013 of the study cohort under question of patients identified in-hospital with a discharge diagnosis of ACS who presented with OHCA ($n=9,421$) (Figure 1). In the overall cohort of ACS patients presenting with OHCA, the prevalence of known underlying ischemic heart disease (previous angina (20.4% (326/1595) in 2009 versus 15.8% (211/1334) in 2013; $P_{\text{trend}} < 0.001$), previous acute myocardial infarction (21.8% (348/1595) in 2009 versus 17.4% (232/1334) in 2013; $P_{\text{trend}} < 0.05$) and previous CABG (7.3% (116/1595) in 2009 versus 5.5% (73/1334) in 2013; $P_{\text{trend}} < 0.05$) and risk factors for coronary artery disease (hypercholesterolemia (28.8% (459/1595) in 2009 versus 25.0% (333/1334) in 2013; $P_{\text{trend}} < 0.05$), smoking history (64.5% (1028/1595) in 2009 versus 60.6% (809/1334) in 2013; $P_{\text{trend}} < 0.05$) and positive family history (25.5% (407/1595) in 2009 versus 23.1% (308/1334) in 2013; $P_{\text{trend}} < 0.001$)) significantly decreased. There was no significant change in patients presenting with pulseless VT/VF (88.9% (1418/1595) in 2009 versus 86.9% (1159/1334) in 2013; $P_{\text{trend}} = 0.06$) (Section 4, Supplementary Material). An increase in male gender (74.8% (1193/1595) in 2009 versus 77.7% (1037/1334) in 2013; $P_{\text{trend}} < 0.05$) and STE on the post-resuscitation ECG (62.6% (999/1595) versus in 2009 versus 65.4% (872/1334) in 2013; $P_{\text{trend}} < 0.05$) was seen. In this overall cohort of 9,421 OHCA patients identified in-hospital with a discharge diagnosis of ACS, male gender (75.9%, 7,148/9,421) with presenting rhythm of VT/VF (88.2%, 8,313/9,421) and ST elevation (STE) on the post-resuscitation ECG (65.0%, 6124/9,421) predominated.

Trends in Coronary Angiography in Identified Cases of OHCA

Of the 9,421 patients identified in-hospital with a discharge diagnosis of ACS that presented with OHCA: 18.0% (1,699/9,421) did not undergo a coronary procedure; 20.8% (1,964/9,421) underwent coronary angiography (CA) alone and 61.1% (5,758/9,421) underwent CA+PCI. Within this OHCA cohort of ACS patients, over the 5-year period, CA+PCI increased from 54.9% (876/1,595) in 2009 to 66.3% (884/1,334) in 2013 ($P_{\text{trend}} < 0.001$); conversely, CA alone decreased from 22.0% (351/1,595) in 2009 to 20.0% (267/1,334) in 2013 ($P_{\text{trend}} < 0.001$) and the proportion of patients who did not undergo coronary procedure also decreased from 23.1% (368/1,595) in 2009 to 13.7% (183/1,344) in 2013 ($P_{\text{trend}} < 0.001$) (annual trends are available in (Section 5, Supplementary Material). The median number of days to angiogram was 0.3 days (IQR 0 to 1.3 days) and the maximum time to angiogram was 365 days. Of the overall cohort of ACS patients presenting with OHCA, 9.4% (882/9,421) of patients died prior to coronary angiography.

We then examined the temporal trends in baseline characteristics of patients selected to undergo CA±PCI within the OHCA subgroup of ACS patients (CA±PCI; 7,722/9,421) over the 5-year period (Table 2). From 2009 to 2013, in the cohort of patients documented as having undergone CA±PCI, there was a significant increase in the proportion of male patients (76.0% (933/1,227) in 2009 versus 79.1% in 2013 (910/1,151); $P_{\text{trend}} < 0.05$) undergoing CA±PCI. There was a significant decrease in the prevalence of cardiovascular risk factors in this cohort: including a family history of cardiovascular disease (27.8% in 2009 (341/1,227) versus 24.7% in 2013 (284/1,151); $P_{\text{trend}} < 0.001$); previous myocardial infarction (19.7% (242/1,227) in 2009 versus 16.0% (184/1,151) in 2013; $P_{\text{trend}} < 0.05$); history of angina (18.6% (228/1,227) in 2009 versus 14.7% (169/1,151) in 2013; $P_{\text{trend}} < 0.05$); hypercholesterolemia (29.3% (360/1,227) in 2009 versus 25.1% (289/1,151) in 2013; $P_{\text{trend}} < 0.05$) and smoking history (65.4% (803/1,227) in 2009 versus 61.6% (709/1,151) in 2013; $P_{\text{trend}} < 0.05$). The proportion of patients undergoing CA±PCI with VT/VF as the presenting rhythm also decreased (91.2% (1,119/1,227) in 2009 versus 89.5% (1,030/1,151) in 2013; $P_{\text{trend}} < 0.05$). From the 5-year cohort of ACS patients presenting with OHCA (9,421), an overall comparison of baseline characteristics was made between the groups of patients selected to undergo CA alone

(1,964/9,421), CA+PCI (5,758/9,421) and patients who did not undergo a coronary angiogram (1,699/9,421); these are presented in Table 3.

Multivariable logistic regression analysis of the patients identified in-hospital with a discharge diagnosis of ACS who presented with OHCA (n=9,421) was performed to determine the odds of undergoing (i) CA±PCI and (ii) CA+PCI in this cohort, Table 4. If STE was present, there was an eight fold increased probability of receiving CA+PCI (adjusted OR 8.34, 95% CI 7.00 to 9.94; $P < 0.05$). A presenting rhythm of VT/VF (adjusted OR 2.16, 95% CI 1.29 to 3.63; $P < 0.05$) or previous PCI (adjusted OR 1.88, 95% CI 1.24 to 2.85; $P < 0.05$) was associated with a two fold increased probability of receiving CA+PCI. Patients had a significantly higher probability of receiving CA+PCI in the presence of cardiovascular risk factors including hypercholesterolemia (adjusted OR 1.31, 95% CI 1.04 to 1.66; $P < 0.05$) and smoking history (adjusted OR 1.45, 95% CI 1.20 to 1.76; $P < 0.05$). Conversely, those with previous coronary artery bypass grafting (adjusted OR 0.46, 95% CI 0.35 to 0.61; $P < 0.05$) and heart failure (adjusted OR 0.69, 95% CI 0.49 to 0.98; $P < 0.05$) were less likely to undergo a coronary procedure, Table 4.

Trends in Clinical Outcomes

Length of stay was also examined in the overall cohort of ACS patients presenting with OHCA. Median length of stay was 5 days (IQR 2 to 11) and the maximum length of stay was 388 days. In patients identified with a discharge diagnosis of ACS who presented with OHCA (n=9,421), overall in-hospital mortality was 29.2% (2,753/9,421). In patients identified with a discharge diagnosis of ACS who presented with OHCA (n=9,421), we compared clinical outcomes in patients who underwent a coronary procedure with those who did not. This was further divided into no coronary angiogram (1,699/9,421), CA alone (1,964/9,421) and CA+PCI (5,758/9,421). Overall, in patients who underwent CA+PCI, in-hospital death was significantly lower than in patients who underwent CA alone (21.8% CA+PCI 1,258/5,758, versus 37.3% CA alone, 734/1,964; $P < 0.001$) and significantly lower than in patients who underwent no coronary procedure (21.8% CA+PCI, 1,258/5,758 versus 44.8% 761/1,699, no coronary procedure; $P < 0.001$). Over the 5-year period, trend analysis demonstrated a significant increase in in-hospital mortality from 27.8% (443/1595) in 2009 to 31.0% (414/1334) in 2013 in the overall cohort of OHCA ACS patients (n=9,421).

In patients who underwent CA+PCI (n=5,758), trend analysis showed a slight but significant increase in in-hospital mortality over the 5-year period from 20.2% (177/876) in 2009 to 22.6% (200/884) in 2013 ($P_{\text{trend}} < 0.001$). However, this increase in mortality was significantly less than the increase in mortality in the CA alone cohort (33.6% (118/351) in 2009 versus 44.3% (117/267) in 2013; $P < 0.001$) and in patients who underwent no coronary procedure (40.2% (148/368) in 2009 versus 53% (97/183) in 2013; $P < 0.001$).

Multivariable logistic regression analysis of the patients identified in-hospital with a discharge diagnosis of ACS who presented with OHCA was performed to determine predictors of in-hospital mortality (n=9,421). These were: older age (>75 years; OR 1.59; 95% CI 1.34 to 1.89; $P < 0.001$) and the presence of pre-existing comorbidities including diabetes (OR 2.04; 95% CI 1.75 to 2.36; $P < 0.001$), heart failure (OR 1.84; 95% CI 1.36 to 2.47; $P < 0.001$), cerebrovascular disease (OR 1.63; 95% CI 1.29 to 2.07; $P < 0.001$), chronic renal failure (OR 1.66; 95% CI 1.04 to 1.78; $P < 0.05$) and peripheral vascular disease (OR 1.70; 95% CI 1.26 to 2.30; $P < 0.001$) (Table 5). Conversely, the risk of in-hospital death was decreased if the patient presented with VT/VF (OR 0.21; 95% CI 0.17 to 0.26; $P < 0.001$), male sex (OR 0.78; 95% CI 0.68 to 0.89; $P < 0.001$) and had risk factors for coronary disease including hypercholesterolemia (OR 0.69; 95% CI 0.59 to 0.81; $P < 0.001$), smoking history (OR 0.72; 95% CI 0.61 to 0.84; $P < 0.001$) and family history (OR 0.37; 95% CI 0.32 to 0.44; $P < 0.001$). CA+PCI was also associated with decreased risk of in-hospital mortality in the STE cohort (OR 0.58; 95% CI 0.36 to 0.96; $P < 0.05$) but not the non-STE cohort (Table 5).

In patients identified with a discharge diagnosis of ACS who presented with OHCA we compared neurological outcomes between patients who underwent a coronary procedure with those who did not (n=9,421). This was further divided into no procedure (1,699), CA alone (1,964) and CA+PCI (5,758). In patients who underwent CA+PCI, good neurological outcome was significantly higher than in patients who underwent CA alone (61.6% CA+PCI, 3546/5758 versus 41.4% CA alone, 814/1964; $P < 0.001$) and significantly higher than in patients who underwent no coronary procedure (61.6% CA+PCI, 3546/5758 versus 35.6% no procedure, 604/1,699; $P < 0.001$). Trend analysis over the 5-year period showed a significant decrease in the proportion of patients with good neurological outcome in the overall OHCA

ACS cohort from 54.2% (864/1595) in 2009 to 51.3% (685/1334) in 2013 ($P=0.05$). In patients who underwent CA+PCI, trend analysis showed no significant change in good neurological outcome over the 5-year period from 2009 to 2013 (63.4% in 2009 (555/876) versus 61.0% (539/884) in 2013; $P_{\text{trend}}=0.07$). However, in both the CA alone (45.6% (160/351) in 2009 versus 34.3% (92/268) in 2013; $P<0.001$) and no coronary angiogram (40.2% (148/368) in 2009 versus 29.5% (54/183) in 2013; $P<0.001$) cohorts, a significant decrease in good neurological outcome was seen over the 5-year period. Figure 2 demonstrates temporal trends in good neurological outcome in the overall cohort of OHCA ACS patients, those who underwent CA+PCI and the rate of coronary intervention.

In the OHCA cohort of ACS patients the association of coronary procedure with life status (survival both in-hospital and following discharge) was examined (Figure 3). Cox-proportional hazards model was used to generate time varying hazard ratios for short term and long term follow up. This demonstrated significant difference in survival between those selected to undergo any coronary procedure (CA±PCI) versus no (coronary) procedure both before 30 days (HR=0.35, 95% CI: 0.20 to 0.60; $P<0.05$) and after 30 days (HR=0.36, 95% CI: 0.25 to 0.50; $P<0.001$). This was further supported by Cox Proportional Hazards model analysis with time-varying exposure to coronary angiography (HR 0.43, 95% CI: 0.29 to 0.57; $P<0.05$).

Discussion

In this large, 5-year, retrospective observational study, examining patients identified in-hospital with a final diagnosis of ACS, with a specific focus on those presenting with OHCA, the main findings were as follows: 1) the proportion of ACS patients identified as presenting with OHCA increased over the 5-year period. 2) An increase in the rate of CA+PCI was demonstrated. 3) Patient selection for CA±PCI favored male patients, under 75, with STE on the post-resuscitation ECG with a presenting rhythm of VT/VF. 4) A significant increase in CA±PCI in the STE patients was seen over time. 5) Overall in-hospital mortality was significantly lower and neurological outcome better in patients selected to undergo CA+PCI from the ACS cohort presenting with OHCA (both STE and non-STE patients). 6) Over the 5-year period the rate of good neurological outcome in the CA+PCI cohort remained unchanged.

The MINAP registry was established with the intention of capturing all patients admitted to hospital, diagnosed with and treated as acute coronary syndrome. MINAP is a hospital-based ACS registry completed by Cardiology personnel, thus will not capture all patients resuscitated from cardiac arrest and admitted to hospital. As part of a focus on improving care, the Department of Health for England introduced survival from cardiac arrest as part of the Ambulance Service National Quality Indicators from 2011 onwards. This provides data from 2011 to 2013, on the number of patients surviving to hospital with return of spontaneous circulation (ROSC) (5,910 in 2011, 7,662 in 2012 and 8,033 in 2013).¹² Comparison of these data with MINAP data would suggest that MINAP captures approximately one third of resuscitated cardiac arrest patients and admitted to hospital. Interestingly, the number of resuscitated cardiac arrests admitted to hospital increased yearly according to Ambulance Service data. Our study also demonstrated an increase in the number of OHCA patients diagnosed and treated as ACS over the 5-year period. This could, in part, reflect a shift in post cardiac arrest management, with a greater percentage of patients admitted and surviving to hospital with OHCA who are investigated for and treated as ACS. However, this could also be attributable to improved case ascertainment in both pre-hospital and hospital-based audit systems.

Of patients identified in-hospital with a discharge diagnosis of ACS who presented with OHCA, the proportion of OHCA patients presenting with VT/VF per year within the in-hospital ACS cohort, remained unchanged. Comparison of these data with Ambulance Service National Quality Indicators demonstrate a similar picture, with the proportion of resuscitated cardiac arrests delivered to hospital with a presenting rhythm of VT/VF also remaining unchanged. This is despite the overall decrease in the observed incidence of VT/VF arrest out-of-hospital. This could be explained by pre-hospital factors, which include the decision by the ambulance crews to perform resuscitation and a more favourable outcome in this cohort, thus patients surviving to hospital with ROSC. It could also partially be explained by selection bias whereby a cardiac arrest with presenting rhythm of VT/VF is thought more likely to be ischemic in origin, and thus more likely to be treated and diagnosed with ACS, and thus entered into the MINAP database.

Over the 5-year period, distribution of baseline characteristics of the OHCA patients captured within the MINAP registry and therefore diagnosed with ACS broadened to include patients without traditional risk factors for coronary disease. This and the observed increase in the proportion of OHCA patients receiving coronary intervention could reflect a more pro-active approach both in England and internationally to post-arrest care during this period, with increased recognition and emphasis placed on the benefits of specialist cardiac care to manage ensuing cardiovascular dysfunction and treatment of the potential underlying cause through reperfusion.¹³ This is in addition to the national increase in the use of PCI as the preferred reperfusion strategy.¹⁴

This study identified well-established predictors of survival and good neurological outcome in OHCA including VT/VF as the presenting rhythm. This has been shown in numerous observational studies.^{6,15,16} Our study also showed that CA+PCI was associated with reduced in-hospital mortality following OHCA in patients with STE. CA+PCI was also associated with good neurological outcome and improved long-term survival. However, this study also showed that predictors of good outcome were synonymous with the selection criteria for patients undergoing CA±PCI, suggesting a degree of selection bias for coronary angiography towards patients believed to have characteristics associated with a more favorable outcome.

Over the 5-year period, in-hospital mortality increased in the OHCA cohort of ACS patients. However, the overall in-hospital mortality of those presenting with OHCA in the MINAP registry was shown to be much lower than the Ambulance Service National Quality Indicators would suggest, which is indicative of the selective nature of the data, with MINAP only capturing a proportion of all resuscitated cardiac arrests admitted to hospital. In OHCA patients who underwent CA+PCI, there was a slight but significant increase in in-hospital mortality, despite an increase in CA±PCI. This likely reflects a broadening of selection criteria for CAPCI extending to higher risk patients.

The observational nature of these data makes it impossible to derive conclusions about causality. The data for CA±PCI in the non-STE OHCA cohort are conflicting. Although non-STE patients in this study appeared to fare better with CA±PCI, they remain an extremely heterogeneous cohort, with multiple

possible causes for arrest including non-cardiac causes, chronic coronary artery disease and scar-induced arrhythmia. The non-STE patients in the MINAP registry were a select group, with a confirmed diagnosis of ACS, entered into the database retrospectively, thus these findings cannot be transferable to all non-STE patients. However, these data would suggest that regardless of post-resuscitation ECG findings, patients with ACS as the cause of OHCA could benefit from CA±PCI. In the absence of STE following cardiac arrest, the ECG is less reliable in guiding diagnosis and a focus is placed on hemodynamic status and possible preceding symptoms prior to arrest. Recently published ESC guidelines recommend rule out of non-coronary causes prior to coronary angiography.⁸ In the absence of convincing randomized data we are yet to determine the best post-arrest strategy for these patients. Further investigation in the form of a randomized trial of routine invasive angiography and revascularization, where appropriate following OHCA is necessary. The key factor here is to identify which patients benefit from an early invasive strategy. The coordination of this however, is complex, and close interaction is necessary pre-hospital between centers and emergency services and internally between the emergency department, Cardiologists, and the critical care unit. Several planned randomized control trials including Early Coronary Angiography Versus Delayed Coronary Angiography NCT02387398 and A Randomized tRial of Expedited transfer to a cardiac arrest center for non-ST elevation out of hospital cardiac arrest; ISRCTN 96585404 will address the optimal post-arrest pathway for these patients and if coronary angiography should be routinely performed in all patients with resuscitated arrest of presumed cardiac cause.¹⁷

Limitations

There are a number of limitations in this study that are inherent to retrospective database analysis that preclude conclusions with regard to causality. There was a large proportion of missing data, analyses of individuals with only full datasets can introduce bias thus multiple imputation analysis was performed. Multiple imputation works on the assumption that data are missing at random. Despite consistency in results in comparison with complete case analysis, and inclusion of a large number of variables in the MI model, we cannot confirm if the systematic differences between the missing values and the observed values can be explained by differences in observed data thus may be subject to bias. Therefore the results

of this study must be considered hypothesis generating, thus supporting the need for a randomized controlled trial in this cohort.

The MINAP database only captures patients with a discharge diagnosis of ACS, which is at most one third of resuscitated cardiac arrests admitted to hospital, thus conclusions are not transferrable to the entire OHCA population. Furthermore, we cannot compare outcomes between patients with OHCA of presumed cardiac cause who received acute cardiac care and those who did not. Due to the lack of randomized data, selection for coronary intervention is subjective and we therefore cannot account for why individual patients were or were not chosen for this management strategy. This study did not include differentiation of outcome by centre; this would have been informative and could be predictive of outcome and also of missing values.

Conclusions

In this MINAP registry there was an increase in the proportion of OHCA cases treated as ACS over the 5-year period. The rate of CA+PCI increased and was associated with improved survival compared to cohorts not selected for this management strategy; however, as selection criteria broadened to include patients with additional comorbidities, outcomes declined. The future challenges are to identify those patients who will benefit from such a strategy. These data support the need for a randomized controlled trial in this patient cohort.

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Figures

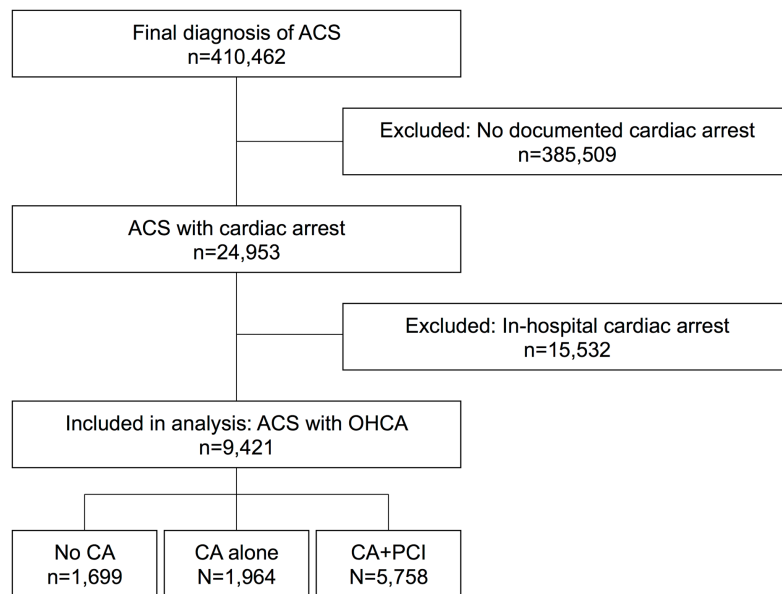


Figure 1. Patient flow diagram and study design. Data were extracted for the time period January 2009 to July 2013. Patients were identified in-hospital. All patients with a final discharge diagnosis of acute coronary syndrome complicated by out-of-hospital cardiac arrest were included in the final analysis. Abbreviations: ACS acute coronary syndrome, OHCA out-of-hospital cardiac arrest, CA coronary angiogram, PCI percutaneous coronary intervention

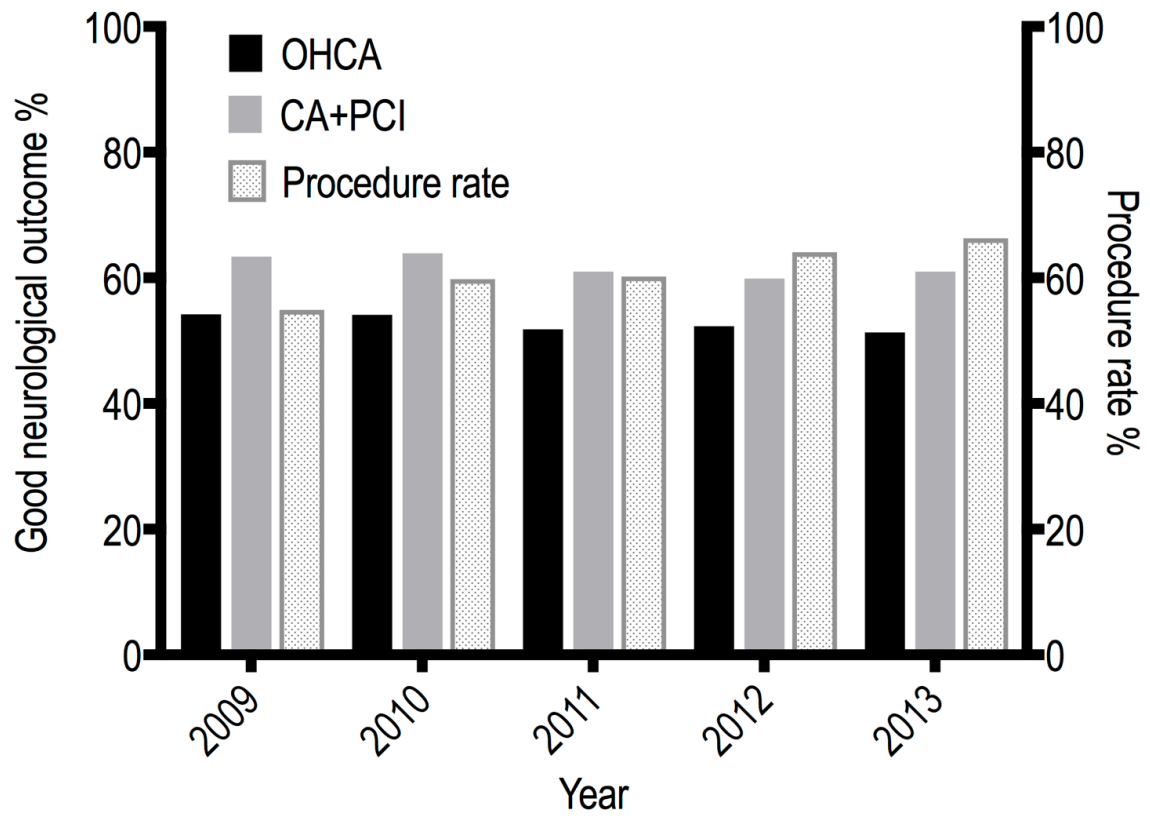


Figure 2 The temporal trends in good neurological outcome of the overall OHCA cohort (black) and the cohort of coronary angiogram + percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI) (gray), trends in procedural rate of coronary angiogram + PCI is also shown (pattern).

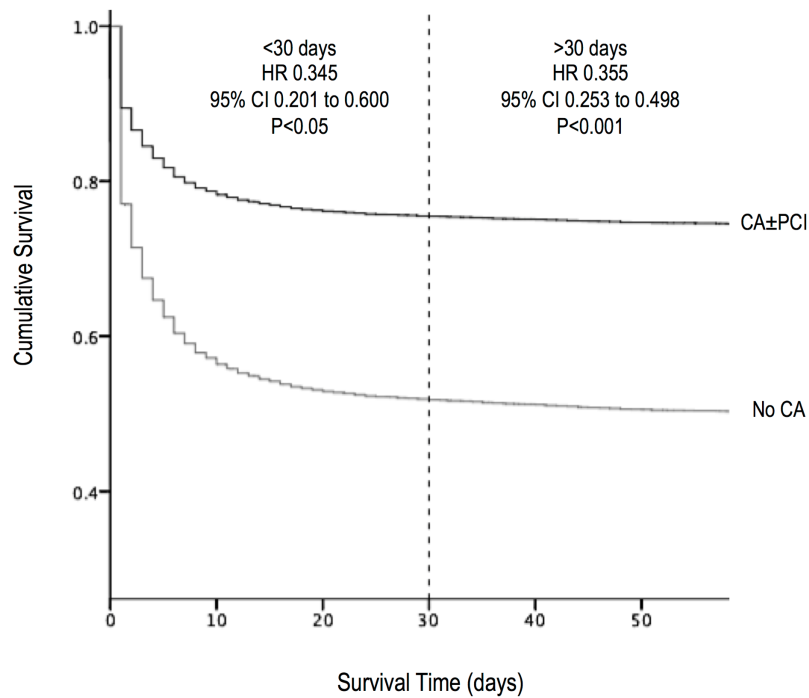


Figure 3 Survival curves according to coronary angiogram \pm PCI (black) and no coronary angiogram (gray). Cox-proportional hazards model was used to calculate time-varying hazard ratios. Survival represents life status, which includes survival both in-hospital and following discharge. Abbreviations: CA coronary angiogram, PCI percutaneous coronary intervention.

Tables

| Baseline Characteristic | Year of Admission | | | | | | | | | | P value |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|-------|-----------|-------|-----------|-------|-----------|-------|-----------|-------|---------|
| | 2009 | | 2010 | | 2011 | | 2012 | | 2013† | | |
| Age over 75 | 391/1595 | 24.5% | 422/1835 | 23.0% | 524/2142 | 24.5% | 625/2515 | 24.9% | 304/1334 | 22.8% | 0.880 |
| Sex (Male) | 1193/1595 | 74.8% | 1369/1835 | 74.6% | 1596/2142 | 74.5% | 1952/2515 | 77.6% | 1037/1334 | 77.7% | <0.05* |
| ST-Elevation | 999/1595 | 62.6% | 1205/1835 | 65.7% | 1352/2142 | 63.1% | 1696/2515 | 67.4% | 872/1334 | 65.4% | <0.05* |
| Previous AMI | 348/1595 | 21.8% | 364/1835 | 19.8% | 436/2142 | 20.4% | 483/2515 | 19.2% | 232/1334 | 17.4% | <0.05* |
| Previous Angina | 326/1595 | 20.4% | 365/1835 | 19.9% | 392/2142 | 18.3% | 394/2515 | 15.7% | 211/1334 | 15.8% | <0.001* |
| Hypertension | 661/1595 | 41.4% | 768/1835 | 41.9% | 891/2142 | 41.6% | 1046/2515 | 41.6% | 542/1334 | 40.6% | 0.820 |
| Hypercholesterolemia | 459/1595 | 28.8% | 531/1835 | 28.9% | 584/2142 | 27.3% | 670/2515 | 26.6% | 333/1334 | 25.0% | <0.05* |
| Peripheral Vascular Disease | 46/1595 | 2.9% | 59/1835 | 3.2% | 97/2142 | 4.5% | 94/2515 | 3.7% | 51/1334 | 3.8% | 0.180 |
| Cerebrovascular Disease | 111/1595 | 7.0% | 129/1835 | 7.0% | 152/2142 | 7.1% | 208/2515 | 8.3% | 86/1334 | 6.4% | 0.729 |
| Chronic Renal Failure | 65/1595 | 4.1% | 74/1835 | 4.0% | 87/2142 | 4.1% | 114/2515 | 4.5% | 62/1334 | 4.6% | 0.638 |
| Heart Failure | 92/1595 | 5.8% | 92/1835 | 5.0% | 122/2142 | 5.7% | 144/2515 | 5.7% | 66/1334 | 4.9% | 0.756 |
| Smoker | 1028/1595 | 64.5% | 1160/1835 | 63.2% | 1350/2142 | 63.0% | 1563/2515 | 62.1% | 809/1334 | 60.6% | <0.05* |
| Diabetes | 188/1595 | 11.8% | 260/1835 | 14.2% | 306/2142 | 14.3% | 382/2515 | 15.2% | 172/1334 | 12.9% | 0.234 |
| Previous PCI | 134/1595 | 8.4% | 143/1835 | 7.8% | 161/2142 | 7.5% | 201/2515 | 8.0% | 99/1334 | 7.4% | 0.339 |
| Previous CABG | 116/1595 | 7.3% | 103/1835 | 5.6% | 112/2142 | 5.2% | 140/2515 | 5.6% | 73/1334 | 5.5% | <0.05* |
| Family History | 407/1595 | 25.5% | 460/1835 | 25.1% | 548/2142 | 25.6% | 544/2515 | 21.6% | 308/1334 | 23.1% | <0.001* |
| Pulseless VT/VF | 1418/1595 | 88.9% | 1656/1835 | 90.2% | 1861/2142 | 86.9% | 2218/2515 | 88.2% | 1159/1334 | 86.9% | 0.061 |

Table 1 Annual trends in baseline characteristics, including the cardiovascular risk factors, of the 9,421 patients with troponin positive acute coronary syndrome (ACS) presenting as out-of-hospital cardiac arrest (OHCA) over the 5-year period. Data are displayed per year, as counts n/N and percentages (%), where n is the number of patients documented as having the presence of a baseline characteristic, N is the total number of ACS patients in that year documented as OHCA and % is the proportion (2009 N=1595, 2010 N=1835, 2011 N=2142, 2012 N=2515, 2013 N=1334). * Indicates unadjusted $P<0.05$. †Numerical data only available from January to July 2013. Abbreviations in order of appearance: AMI acute myocardial infarction, PCI percutaneous coronary intervention, CABG coronary artery bypass graft surgery, VT/VF pulseless ventricular tachycardia/ventricular fibrillation.

| Baseline Characteristic (CA±PCI) | Year of Admission | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|-------|-----------|-------|-----------|-------|-----------|-------|-----------|-------|---------|
| | 2009 | | 2010 | | 2011 | | 2012 | | 2013† | | |
| Age over 75 | 266/1227 | 18.4% | 301/1468 | 20.5% | 381/1738 | 21.9% | 472/2138 | 22.0% | 239/1151 | 20.8% | 0.724 |
| Sex (Male) | 933/1227 | 76.0% | 1124/1468 | 76.6% | 1323/1738 | 76.1% | 1692/2138 | 79.1% | 910/1151 | 79.1% | <0.05* |
| ST-Elevation | 832/1227 | 67.8% | 1041/1468 | 71.0% | 1191/1738 | 68.5% | 1539/2138 | 72.0% | 797/1151 | 69.2% | 0.355 |
| Previous AMI | 242/1227 | 19.7% | 262/1468 | 17.9% | 328/1738 | 18.9% | 377/2138 | 17.6% | 184/1151 | 16.0% | <0.05* |
| Previous Angina | 228/1227 | 18.6% | 259/1468 | 17.7% | 295/1738 | 17.0% | 304/2138 | 14.2% | 169/1151 | 14.7% | <0.05* |
| Hypertension | 503/1227 | 41.0% | 621/1468 | 42.3% | 710/1738 | 40.9% | 877/2138 | 41.0% | 458/1151 | 39.8% | 0.576 |
| Hypercholesterolemia | 360/1227 | 29.3% | 433/1468 | 29.5% | 483/1738 | 27.8% | 580/2138 | 27.1% | 289/1151 | 25.1% | <0.05* |
| Peripheral Vascular Disease | 32/1227 | 2.6% | 44/1468 | 3.0% | 74/1738 | 4.3% | 79/2138 | 3.7% | 42/1151 | 3.6% | 0.125 |
| Cerebrovascular Disease | 74/1227 | 6.0% | 88/1468 | 6.0% | 106/1738 | 6.1% | 159/2138 | 7.4% | 63/1151 | 5.5% | 0.806 |
| Chronic Renal Failure | 40/1227 | 3.3% | 46/1468 | 3.1% | 58/1738 | 3.3% | 80/2138 | 3.7% | 45/1151 | 3.9% | 0.593 |
| Heart Failure | 61/1227 | 5.0% | 60/1468 | 4.1% | 89/1738 | 5.1% | 110/2138 | 5.1% | 49/1151 | 4.3% | 0.602 |
| Smoker | 803/1227 | 65.4% | 946/1468 | 64.5% | 1117/1738 | 64.3% | 1353/2138 | 63.3% | 709/1151 | 61.6% | <0.05* |
| Diabetes | 136/1227 | 11.1% | 201/1468 | 13.7% | 247/1738 | 14.2% | 323/2138 | 15.1% | 137/1151 | 11.9% | 0.124 |
| Previous PCI | 108/1227 | 9.1% | 120/1468 | 8.2% | 134/1738 | 7.7% | 175/2138 | 8.2% | 84/1151 | 7.3% | 0.222 |
| Previous CABG | 74/1227 | 8.8% | 69/1468 | 4.7% | 81/1738 | 4.7% | 98/2138 | 4.6% | 54/1151 | 4.7% | 0.170 |
| Family History | 341/1227 | 27.8% | 398/1468 | 27.1% | 483/1738 | 27.8% | 485/2138 | 22.7% | 284/1151 | 24.7% | <0.001* |
| VT/VF | 1119/1227 | 91.2% | 1350/1468 | 92.0% | 1552/1738 | 89.3% | 1940/2138 | 90.7% | 1030/1151 | 89.5% | <0.05* |

Table 2. Annual trends in the baseline characteristics of ACS patients presenting with OHCA that were selected to undergo any coronary procedure (coronary angiography (CA) \pm PCI) over the 5-year period (7,722/9,421) comprised of CA alone (1964) and CA+PCI (5758). Data are described as counts (n/N) and percentages (%); where n is the number of patients with a characteristic, and N is the total number of patients in that year who underwent CA \pm PCI (2009 N=1227, 2010 N=1468, 2011 N=1738, 2012 N=2138, 2013 N=1151). * Indicates unadjusted $P<0.05$. †Numerical data only available from January to July 2013. Abbreviations in order of appearance: AMI acute myocardial infarction, PCI percutaneous coronary intervention, CABG coronary artery bypass graft surgery, VT/VF pulseless ventricular tachycardia/ventricular fibrillation.

| Baseline Characteristic | Procedure Specific Data | | | | | | P Value |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|-------|--------------|-------|------------|-------|---------|
| | No CA (1) | | CA alone (2) | | CA+PCI (3) | | |
| Age over 75 | 607/1699 | 35.7% | 600/1964 | 30.5% | 1059/5758 | 18.4% | <0.001* |
| Sex (Male) | 724/1699 | 42.6% | 531/1964 | 27.0% | 4868/5758 | 84.5% | <0.001* |
| ST-Elevation | 350/1699 | 20.6% | 535/1964 | 27.2% | 5274/5758 | 91.6% | <0.001* |
| Previous AMI | 470/1699 | 27.7% | 607/1964 | 30.9% | 787/5758 | 13.7% | <0.001* |
| Previous Angina | 435/1699 | 25.6% | 500/1964 | 25.5% | 754/5758 | 13.1% | <0.001* |
| Hypertension | 738/1699 | 43.4% | 955/1964 | 48.6% | 2214/5758 | 38.5% | <0.001* |
| Hypercholesterolemia | 433/1699 | 25.5% | 564/1964 | 28.7% | 1580/5758 | 27.4% | <0.001* |
| Peripheral Vascular Disease | 76/1699 | 4.5% | 94/1964 | 4.8% | 177/5758 | 3.1% | <0.05* |
| Cerebrovascular Disease | 195/1699 | 11.5% | 177/1964 | 9.0% | 314/5758 | 5.5% | <0.001* |
| Chronic Renal Failure | 135/1699 | 7.9% | 139/1964 | 7.0% | 130/5758 | 2.3% | <0.001* |
| Heart Failure | 148/1699 | 8.7% | 208/1964 | 10.6% | 160/5758 | 2.8% | <0.001* |
| Smoker | 982/1699 | 57.8% | 1022/1964 | 52.0% | 3906/5758 | 67.8% | <0.001* |
| Diabetes | 264/1699 | 15.5% | 396/1964 | 20.2% | 649/5758 | 11.3% | <0.001* |
| Previous PCI | 116/1699 | 6.8% | 184/1964 | 9.4% | 437/5758 | 7.6% | <0.001* |
| Previous CABG | 168/1699 | 9.9% | 223/1964 | 11.4% | 153/5758 | 2.7% | <0.001* |
| Family History | 278/1699 | 16.4% | 355/1964 | 18.1% | 1636/5758 | 28.4% | <0.001* |
| VT/VF | 1322/1699 | 77.8% | 1638/1964 | 83.4% | 5353/5758 | 93.0% | <0.001* |

Table 3 A comparison of the baseline characteristics of all patients selected to undergo a coronary procedure with those who were not, from the 5-year cohort of ACS patients presenting with OHCA (9,421). This is subdivided into groups: (1) no coronary angiogram (CA) (1,191/9,421); (2) coronary angiogram (CA) only (1,785/9,421); and (3) coronary angiogram + percutaneous coronary intervention (CA+PCI) (6,445/9,421). For clarification see Figure 1. Data are displayed as counts n/N and percentages (%), where n is the number of patients documented as having the presence of a baseline characteristic, N is the total number of patients in each cohort and % is the proportion, * indicates unadjusted $P < 0.05$. Abbreviations: VT/VF pulseless ventricular tachycardia/ventricular fibrillation, CABG coronary artery bypass graft surgery, PCI percutaneous coronary intervention.

| Variable | Adjusted Odds Ratio | 95% Confidence Interval | P Value |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|---------|
| CA±PCI | | | |
| STE | 2.51 | 1.89 to 5.31 | <0.05 |
| Male sex | 1.53 | 1.22 to 1.90 | <0.05 |
| Cerebrovascular Disease | 0.70 | 0.544 to 0.893 | <0.05 |
| Previous coronary artery bypass graft | 0.70 | 0.523 to 0.924 | <0.05 |
| CA+PCI | | | |
| VT/VF | 2.16 | 1.29 to 3.63 | <0.05 |
| STE | 8.34 | 7.00 to 9.94 | <0.05 |
| Previous PCI | 1.88 | 1.24 to 2.85 | <0.05 |
| Hypercholesterolemia | 1.31 | 1.04 to 1.66 | <0.05 |
| Smoking history | 1.45 | 1.20 to 1.76 | <0.05 |
| Previous coronary artery bypass graft | 0.46 | 0.35 to 0.61 | <0.05 |
| Heart failure | 0.69 | 0.49 to 0.98 | <0.05 |
| Previous AMI | 0.55 | 0.44 to 0.69 | <0.05 |

Table 4. Multivariable logistic regression analysis demonstrating significant associations between categorical covariates and (i) CA±PCI and (ii) CA+PCI (n=9,421). Abbreviations: STE ST-elevation on post resuscitation ECG, PCI percutaneous coronary intervention, VT/VF pulseless ventricular tachycardia/ventricular fibrillation, AMI acute myocardial infarction.

| Variable | Adjusted Odds Ratio | 95% Confidence Interval | P Value |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|---------|
| Predictors of in-hospital mortality | | | |
| VT/VF | 0.15 | 0.13 to 0.18 | <0.001 |
| Family History | 0.39 | 0.31 to 0.49 | <0.001 |
| CA+PCI | 0.62 | 0.40 to 0.95 | <0.05 |
| Hypercholesterolemia | 0.69 | 0.59 to 0.81 | <0.05 |
| Smoking history | 0.73 | 0.63 to 0.85 | <0.001 |
| Male sex | 0.79 | 0.70 to 0.89 | <0.001 |
| Chronic renal failure | 1.40 | 1.04 to 1.89 | <0.05 |
| Cerebrovascular disease | 1.54 | 1.25 to 1.90 | <0.001 |
| Age over 75 | 1.59 | 1.40 to 1.81 | <0.001 |
| Heart failure | 1.59 | 1.25 to 2.02 | <0.001 |
| Peripheral Vascular disease | 1.75 | 1.31 to 2.33 | <0.001 |
| Diabetes | 1.98 | 1.65 to 2.37 | <0.001 |

Table 5. Multivariable logistic regression analysis demonstrating significant associations between categorical covariates and in-hospital mortality (n=9,421). Abbreviations: VT/VF pulseless ventricular tachycardia/ventricular fibrillation, AMI acute myocardial infarction.